



U.S. Navy's

# Military Sealift Command

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## USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) Hospital Ship



### Ship Characteristics:

- **Length:** 894 feet (272 meters)
  - **Beam:** 106 feet (32 meters)
  - **Draft:** 33 feet (10 meters)
  - **Displacement (full):** 69,360 long tons
  - **Speed:** 17.5 knots
  - **Delivered to U.S. Navy:** Dec. 19, 1986
  - **Crew Size:**
    - Civil Service Mariners –  
Deployed: 65\*, Not Deployed: 18
    - Navy Medical Personnel –  
Deployed: 1,215\*, Not Deployed: 58
- \* When Mercy is deployed, crew size varies based on mission requirements.*

**Mission:** USNS Mercy's primary mission is to provide an afloat, mobile, acute surgical medical facility to the U.S. military that is flexible, capable and uniquely adaptable to support expeditionary warfare. Mercy's secondary mission is to provide full hospital services to support U.S. disaster relief and humanitarian operations worldwide.

### Reduced and Full Operating Status/Crew:

- When not deployed, Mercy is kept in reduced operating status in San Diego where a small crew of civil service mariners and Navy medical personnel maintain the ship in a high state of readiness.
- When activated, Mercy can transition to full operating status in five days.
- Mercy is operated, navigated and maintained by a crew of civil service mariners working for the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command.
- Mercy's Medical Treatment Facility is crewed and maintained by medical personnel from the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

### Embarked Medical Treatment Facility Capabilities:

- Mercy has one of the largest trauma facilities in the United States.
- The hospital has a full spectrum of surgical and medical services including four X-rays, one CT scan unit, a dental suite, an optometry and lens laboratory, a physical therapy center, a pharmacy, an angiography suite and two oxygen-producing plants. Mercy is capable of maintaining up to 5,000 units of blood.
- Patients arrive aboard primarily by helicopter and sometimes by small boat.
- Patients are assessed for medical treatment in casualty receiving and routed to surgery or other services depending on their medical condition.

## USNS Mercy Recent Missions:

- **Pacific Partnership 2010** – From May to September 2010, Mercy served as one of the platforms for a humanitarian and civic assistance mission to Southeast Asia. During the Mercy portion of the mission, more than 100,000 people were treated in Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste. The ship's personnel distributed more than 58,000 pairs of eyeglasses and sunglasses, and provided dental care for more than 12,000 patients. In addition, the Mercy team conducted more than 24,000 hours of information exchanges in the four countries visited. The team also participated in 62 community service projects ashore, the majority at schools and orphanages.
- **Pacific Partnership 2008** – From May to September 2008, Mercy served as the platform for a humanitarian and civic assistance mission to Southeast Asia and Oceania. During Mercy's portion of the mission, more than 90,000 patients were treated in the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia. The ship's hospital was staffed by medical professionals and volunteers from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Public Health Service, 10 partner nations and several nongovernmental organizations.
- **2006 humanitarian assistance mission** – From April to September 2006, Mercy conducted a humanitarian assistance mission to the Republic of the Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Timor-Leste that treated more than 60,000 people. During 72 days of operations, Mercy's team of civil service mariners, Navy medical personnel, volunteers from nongovernmental organizations and foreign military personnel aboard worked together to – among other things – distribute 1,141 pairs of eyeglasses, give 19,375 immunizations and conduct 1,083 surgeries afloat and ashore.
- **Operation Unified Assistance** – Following the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia, Mercy deployed to the area for five months to provide humanitarian support. The mission expanded to aid those affected by earthquakes and a volcanic eruption in the region. Mercy provided assistance to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea. Medical personnel treated more than 107,000 patients, performed 466 surgeries, distributed 11,555 pairs of eyeglasses and performed more than 6,900 dental procedures. Mercy's civil service mariners and military biomedical technicians repaired infrastructure and medical equipment in hospitals, clinics and other public buildings, enabling them to quickly become operational.
- **Operation Desert Shield/Storm** – In August 1990, Mercy deployed to the Middle East for eight months in support of multinational allied forces in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The medical facility admitted 690 patients and performed nearly 300 surgeries.
- **Spring 1987 humanitarian assistance/training deployment** – The newly delivered Mercy conducted a four-month humanitarian assistance and training deployment to the Republic of the Philippines and other South Pacific Islands. Mercy's Navy medical personnel provided medical attention ranging from outpatient care to major surgery for more than 73,000 people.

**History:** USNS Mercy is the first of two Mercy-class hospital ships. A converted San Clemente-class supertanker, Mercy delivered to the Navy's Military Sealift Command Dec. 19, 1986.

*Military Sealift Command operates approximately 110 non-combatant, civilian-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships, chart ocean bottoms, conduct undersea surveillance, strategically preposition combat cargo at sea around the world and move military equipment and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces.*